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SCIENCE

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UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN LONDON¹

PROBABLY no document of greater importance to medical education, and to university education in general, has appeared in recent years than the report just issued by the Royal Commission. This commission, appointed by Edward Seventh, considered the organization and extension of the various institutions of higher education in London to constitute the new University of London. Its reports and extensive supplements have been published from time to time, and the parts which deal with medical education have been followed with interest by medical men in both Great Britain and America.

The appointment of the Royal Commission was not the beginning of the movement for reform of the educational institutions in London; it was rather the culmination of a long agitation which arose from several motives supported by different bodies and persons. It was only after the failure to secure the support of the university senate and convocation that the alternative course of applying directly to the crown for a charter establishing a new university altogether was adopted. The movement which led to this petition arose from the medical teachers who applied for a charter empowering them to confer degrees. From the point of view of university reform there was not much to be said for a proposal for substituting one examining body for another with the express

¹Final report. T. Fisher Unwin, London, W. C. 1913. Price 2 shillings. The article was prepared as a review of the report of the commission, but in view of the importance of the subject and its interest to American men of science, it is printed as a leading article.—EDITOR.